



NOVA SCOTIA  
Department of Education

News from  
Public Schools Branch

October 2008

<http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>

Reports from school boards indicate that we have had a very smooth opening of schools. The greatest change this year has been the attendance in primary of approximately 1800 additional students who now qualify because of the change in age of entry to December 31st from October 1st. The increased numbers and increased age span have produced new challenges which are being ably met by primary teachers. The Department and school boards have helped teachers to prepare for the students with additional resources and professional development activities. The Department presented a workshop in the summer for primary teachers throughout the province and will offer two further workshops during the school year. I want to express my thanks to the primary teachers for their dedication and hard work in preparing for our youngest students. I also want to wish all teachers and students every success in the 2008-09 school year.

*Dr. Alan Lowe, Senior Executive Director, Public Schools Branch*

### Literacy Success 12

A three-day Implementation Workshop will be held on October 20–22, 2008, for teacher representatives from every high school. A well known expert in the field of high school assessment, Anne Davies, will present state-of-the-art theory and practice for two of the three days.



Student and professional resources to be distributed to high schools across the province will be showcased. These resources will begin to arrive at schools in November.

### Skilled Trades Courses on Their Way

Grade 10 students in selected schools will have the chance to explore the skilled trades and learn about career options in a new introductory course, Skilled Trades 10, being offered in pilot schools in each school board starting this year.

Skilled Trades 10 is open to any student who wishes to explore the skilled trades and develop the skills necessary for a future in the culinary arts, construction, and transportation trades.

These skills can be further developed in the Construction Trades 11 course, and students will have the opportunity for co-operative work experience with a real employer in grade 12.

Skilled Trades courses and Skilled Trades Centres—classroom and work space designed for the practical side of these courses—mark the beginning of integration of skilled trades education in our public schools.

### Challenge for Excellence DVDs

The Student Services Division has released a two disc DVD set entitled Challenge for Excellence: Program Planning. This DVD set provides a framework for program planning for students with gifts and talents and highlights some programming strategies and options that may be considered by a program planning team.

The resource is intended to support professional learning communities in examining how they can expand and enhance individual programming for students with gifts and talents.

These DVD sets, produced for Student Services by the Media Production unit of Learning Resources & Technology Services, have been provided to all Student Services Coordinators for schools in their boards.

### Anti-Bullying Crests

There are still anti-bullying crests available for order at the Nova Scotia Book Bureau.

Schools that have not yet placed an order for their crests are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. All public schools are entitled to order, at no charge, crests equaling 25 per cent of their total student enrolment.

All unclaimed or surplus crests will be made available to schools later this fall.

The crests, created by the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation in partnership with DOE for use on team uniforms, can also be used on backpacks and other articles to promote respect and tolerance in school and in the community.

**BRANCHING OUT is published 3 times yearly in October, February, and May.**

**Back issues are available at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>**

**If you wish to add your name to the distribution list, please send an email to [lrt@ednet.ns.ca](mailto:lrt@ednet.ns.ca).**

### Health Education Primary-6

Last spring, elementary schools received the *Wow! Box*—a container of print, media, professional and material resources that address physical activity and healthy eating. A number of resources have been identified as practical additions to this resource kit, and schools can expect to receive these additions later in fall or early winter. A number of schools across the province are to be commended for utilizing the range of resources in this kit to begin walking programs and to integrate learning experiences across the curriculum to promote physical activity and healthy eating.



### Physical Education 10-12

Development of a range of course options in Physical Education at the high school level is the highlight for the start of the 2008-2009 school year, with the implementation of Physical Education

10, the introduction of Physically Active Living 11 and Fitness Leadership 11, and the development of Physical Education 11, Yoga 11, Leadership 12, and Exercise Science 12. The aim of these new courses is to develop essential competencies, build confidence, and fully engage students to instill the importance and desire to be active for life and beyond instructional time. Teachers have already received a number of professional resources to build a shared physical education department library at each school site, and can expect to receive more throughout the school year.

### Health Education Curriculum Outcomes Review

A new learning outcomes framework is currently in development for Health Education Primary-9. This new outcomes framework will comprise a reduced number of specific curriculum outcomes and will be based on best practices for health promotion and prevention practices to contribute to positive child and youth development. It is expected that this outcomes framework will be made available to schools in time for the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

**Canada's Nutrition and Health Atlas** is a web-based tool that disseminates information on nutrition-related indicators that should be a useful resource for educators. The CNHA is available at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/surveill/atlas/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/surveill/atlas/index_e.html)



### Talk About Gaelic!

Six schools across the province will be offering Gaelic language instruction thanks to the Department of Education's ongoing commitment to providing Gaelic Language Program Grants. Mira Road Elementary (CBVRSB); Saint Andrew Junior School, St. Andrew's Consolidated School (SRSB); East Pictou Middle School, Cobequid Educational Center (CCRSB), and Citadel High School (HRSB) were approved for grants ranging from \$9,000 to \$100,000. A total of \$233,843 was allocated to Gaelic language projects for 2008-2009.

Program grants may be used for hiring Gaelic language teachers, providing professional development opportunities, and purchasing teaching and learning resources. The deadline for projects beginning in the summer of 2009 is May 15, 2009. For complete details on this program, please contact Mary Fedorchuk, Program Co-ordinator, P-12, English Program Services at 902-424-5436 or by e-mail at [fedormc@gov.ns.ca](mailto:fedormc@gov.ns.ca).

### Education Week Celebrates Fine Arts

Education Week has a long and proud history in Nova Scotia, dating back to the 1930s. This year, we're celebrating the fine arts: music, drama, dance and visual



art. It is a chance for us to honour teachers, principals, guidance counsellors and community members who so keenly demonstrate to students the value of the fine arts in a well-rounded academic program. Watch for more details from the Provincial Education Week Committee and your school board this fall.

Education Week is April 19-25, 2009.

### October is Health Literacy Month

Health literacy involves access to health information and the ability to understand, communicate and act on this information. For more information, please see "A Vision for a Health Literate Canada: Report of the Expert Panel on Health Literacy"

The full report is available at:

[http://www.cpha.ca/uploads/portals/h-l/report\\_e.pdf](http://www.cpha.ca/uploads/portals/h-l/report_e.pdf)

To view the Executive Summary, please visit: [http://www.cpha.ca/uploads/portals/h-l/execsum\\_e.pdf](http://www.cpha.ca/uploads/portals/h-l/execsum_e.pdf)

# October is Health Literacy Month



### Literacy Summer Institutes

Concurrent two-day workshops were held this summer. Once again the Old Orchard Inn welcomed over 200 teachers

from grades primary-12 to gain professional insight in the area of literacy. Tony Stead worked with teachers from primary-6 around independent reading and the connections to writing, while Jeff Anderson spent time with teachers of grades 7-12 highlighting much of his work in his latest book *Inviting Students to Develop Skill and Craft in Writer's Workshop: Everyday Editing*. All teachers

learned a lot and had a fun time with both presenters!

writers  
in  
Action

### Primary Focus: Supporting our Youngest Students!

Professional learning opportunities and resources for primary teachers and students continue to be offered. Further to the spring series of 13 workshops across the province, a Summer Institute for Primary teachers was offered on July 7-8, 2008. A record 160 teachers attended to work with guest speaker, Miriam Trehearne, an expert in the field of Early Literacy, well known for her books on the subject. The fall series of primary workshops is underway, and the third series is scheduled for February-April 2009.



### Ebsco Tip

You know that EBSCO is a rich source of online periodicals for students and teachers, but did you know that Shared Folders enable EBSCOhost users to store and share

items with other users? For details, please see these FAQs:

What are Shared Folders? If you cannot open the link, please cut and paste this URL into a browser: [http://support.epnet.com/knowledge\\_base/detail.php?id=3720](http://support.epnet.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?id=3720).

How do I Share a Folder? Here is the URL to the above FAQ: [http://support.epnet.com/knowledge\\_base/detail.php?id=3749](http://support.epnet.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?id=3749)

How do I Accept a Shared Folder? Here is the URL to the above FAQ: [http://support.epnet.com/knowledge\\_base/detail.php?id=3751](http://support.epnet.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?id=3751)

EBSCO: [search.ebscohost.com](http://search.ebscohost.com)

### Free ICT Integrated Lesson Plans Online

The repository of ICT integrated lesson plans is available at [http://lri.ednet.ns.ca/PD/ict\\_projects/](http://lri.ednet.ns.ca/PD/ict_projects/). These lessons are teacher-developed resources reflecting Nova Scotian curriculum outcomes for a variety of grade levels and curriculum areas.

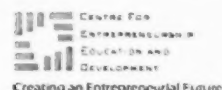
Now additional lessons have been shared for all Nova Scotia teachers by two of our school boards. Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board ([http://www.cbv.ns.ca/Teacher\\_Resources/](http://www.cbv.ns.ca/Teacher_Resources/)) has a variety of materials for most grade levels. Go to <http://hrsbstaff.ednet.ns.ca/ictlessons/index.html> to find lessons by teachers from Halifax Regional School Board. Links to the school board lessons are included on the LRTS page, and also in the Integration of Information Technology section of the Department's Curriculum-related web sites page.

Thanks to CBVRSB and HRSB for their generosity in sharing their online lesson plans with other Nova Scotia teachers.

### Reminder: Toll Free Access to Department 1-888-825-7770

The Department of Education has a toll free number! Toll Free Access complements other forms of communication including e-mail, the Departmental website at <http://ednet.ns.ca> and the individual contact information on the last page of this newsletter.

### Entrepreneurship education resources available from CEED



The Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED) supports students and teachers in achieving curriculum outcomes through a variety of relevant entrepreneurship resources.

CEED recently launched and distributed the new Grade 4 *Jump Right In Elementary Enterprise* resource to all grade 4 classes in Nova Scotia and is currently developing a new Entrepreneurship 12 resource. For more information on CEED's entrepreneurship education resources visit: [www.ceed.info/entrepreneurship\\_education](http://www.ceed.info/entrepreneurship_education)

CEED also hosts the Reality of Entrepreneurship competition for Entrepreneurship 12 classes. The fall competition kicks off on November 12. For details or to register, visit: <http://www.planetentrepreneur.com/reality/index.php>

## October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month

### Stratégies de perfectionnement de la lecture et de l'écriture dans toutes les matières

French Second Language teachers from grades 7 to 12 participated in a literacy-based professional development session in Halifax, August 27th and 28th. There were opportunities to reflect on a variety of cross-curricular reading and writing strategies and to share and adapt numerous activities and strategies to better support literacy skills improvement in second language learning in all content areas.

### Healthy Living 7-9

Courses formerly known as Health/Personal Development and Relationships 7, 8, and 9 have been renamed as Healthy Living 7, Healthy Living 8, and Healthy Living 9. With a new outcomes framework expected for the 2009-2010 school year, teachers of Healthy Living can expect supplementary resources throughout the current school year to support learning and teaching. Teachers of Healthy Living are encouraged to utilize recently distributed resources to support their instructional program. Of special note, *A Question of Influence* has been updated and can be found, along online supports, at [www.druged.ednet.ns.ca/](http://www.druged.ednet.ns.ca/). Teachers who do not have these curriculum supplements should contact their board's Active Healthy Living Consultant.



### writers in Action

This Moodle course features discussion forums and a Greening Our Schools wiki. It will support student writers who wish to collaborate and receive feedback in response to their writing. This Moodle for Student Writers is located at the Nova Scotia Virtual School: <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca/moodle>

Login using a staff or student.ednet account. Select **All Courses** from the left menu, then **Open Student Moodles**, and **Writers in Action**. Click on the teacher name indicated to receive the enrollment key.

Before enrolling in this or any other Moodle course, please review the Provincial Network Access and Use Policy at <http://lrr.ednet.ns.ca/pdf/aup.pdf>

### WIA Moodle Course

A short-duration pilot course, Writers in Action Moodle for Student Writers, is open and available for use by Nova Scotia teachers and students.

### Science



### Science 6 Implementation Workshop

About 80 teachers from around the province actively participated in this workshop, held May 1-2, 2008 at the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, NS.

Participants engaged in hands-on, minds-on activities that highlighted STSE, assessment, and cross-curricular connections with mathematics, language arts, health education, and career education.



### The Nova Scotia ENVIROTHON

is a hands-on environmental education program of the Nova Scotia Forestry Association. It is designed to help increase participants' problem-solving and critical thinking skills. This program is open to students enrolled in grades 9-12. Interested teams can register; teams will meet at a provincial competition on April 30-May 2, 2009, at Acadia University. For more information on the program, contact the N.S. Forestry Association, [www.nsf.ca](http://www.nsf.ca)

### Shad Valley

A three-year funding commitment to support the



**Shad Valley**  
Drive. Stretch. Dream.

participation of Nova Scotia's high school students, identified as top performers, innovative thinkers and future leaders, in the Shad Valley program was announced in May 2008 by Education Minister Karen Casey. "Our future leaders are in today's classrooms. In order to increase the province's innovation capacity, our students must have opportunities like the Shad Valley program available to them," explained Minister Casey.

Shad Valley is a summer enrichment program that encourages students to develop an entrepreneurial mindset while harnessing and strengthening their talents.

The award-winning Shad Valley program is hosted at 12 leading Canadian universities each summer, including Dalhousie. Over 600 high-potential students benefit from the Shad Valley experience each summer, and the program currently boasts a network of over 10,000 alumni, including 18 Rhodes Scholars and countless award winning business and academic leaders.

Application dates for Shad Valley for the summer of 2009 are December 10, 2008 and January 14, 2009. Applications will soon be available in schools across the province, and online at [www.shad.ca](http://www.shad.ca)

## October 27 is National School Library Day





## Second Annual Science Olympics

The Nova Scotia 2008 Science Olympics will be held at St. Mary's University on October 18, 2008. Over 110 students from grades 4 and 5 will participate along with over 30 chaperones. With 30 volunteers and judges, the event will take place all day. Spectators will be welcomed for the afternoon. This exciting event will feature young scientists and adults doing hands-on, minds-on science.

## Teachers are "In a Good Moodle" at ICT Integration Summer Institute



Early in August, 65 educators gathered at the Truro campus of the Nova Scotia Community College to learn about integrating technology into the public school curriculum at the ICT Integration Summer Institute "IT's Summertime."

Sessions included resources and ideas for the constructive integration of information technology in various curricular areas; discussions about topics and issues of interest to teacher-mentors for ICT; and other activities, such as geo-caching, podcasting, web development, and working with Moodle, the online course delivery system provided through the NS Department of Education.



**YooMagazine.net** is an interactive health literacy program designed for young people, parents, and teachers, provided to schools and community groups at no charge. The goals are to provide youth with accurate health and mental health information in a variety of interactive formats and to improve health literacy and decision-making. Each month the magazine focusses on a key health theme that is relevant to youth.

The website, [www.yoomagazine.net](http://www.yoomagazine.net), was developed and is maintained by Dr. Alexa Bagnell, at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, and Dr. Darcy Santor, at the Provincial Centre of Excellence in Ottawa, along with contributions from experts across Canada. To learn how your school can register for YooMagazine, please visit [www.yoomagazine.net/info/register](http://www.yoomagazine.net/info/register) or contact Dr. Alexa Bagnell at [Alexa.Bagnell@iwbk.nshealth.ca](mailto:Alexa.Bagnell@iwbk.nshealth.ca).

## Sustainability Education Makes Sense

UNESCO identifies key action areas of education for sustainable development as gender equality, health promotion, environment, rural development, cultural diversity, peace and human security, sustainable urbanization, and sustainable consumption.

The Nova Scotia Environmental Network has established a working group focussing on education for sustainable development, known as SENSE: Sustainability Education in Nova Scotia for Everyone. SENSE is a multi-stakeholder group, bringing together representatives from government, non-governmental organizations, youth, industry, First Nations, and academia from across Nova Scotia. SENSE projects include promoting the Ecological Footprint project, using the Natural Step Framework for sustainability planning for communities, greening facilities management, and compiling an online sustainability resource directory accessible to all Nova Scotians.

SENSE workshops entitled "The Story of Stuff: Towards Sustainable Consumption and Production" are being offered this fall in partnership with Halifax Regional Libraries. The next "The Story of Stuff" workshop will be held at the Halifax North Branch Library, November 27 at 7 p.m.

The next SENSE general meeting will be held November 3 at the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive in Halifax. The meeting is open to anyone interested in sustainability education. Please RSVP to [nsen@cen-rce.org](mailto:nsen@cen-rce.org).

To find out more about SENSE, visit [www.nsen.ca](http://www.nsen.ca)

## October 24 is Provincial Professional Development Day

In October of each year, teachers and administrators from around the province attend professional development conferences organized by the Special Associations of the NSTU. These conferences are planned and organized by Nova Scotia teachers, and are intended to provide teachers with up-to-date information through sessions provided by their peers and guest speakers. These conferences also give our teachers many opportunities for sharing with others from all areas of the province.

For more information about this year's sessions, please visit [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca)

# October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month

### Nova Scotia Museum Learning Resources Catalogue Online

The LRC is an online listing of educational resources tailored to the school curriculum, including kits for loan, activities, and programs available at the 27 Nova Scotia Museum sites across the province. It describes what each museum site has to offer and includes links to other resources and information. The online catalogue also allows teachers to sign up for updates on new programs and resources as they become available. Visit <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/learn>



### The 8th Annual Atlantic Teachers' Tour

was held this past summer at Pictou Lodge, N.S., with 40 teachers from Atlantic Canada attending. These

four days of professional development allowed teachers to see, first hand, the results of science-based forest management for today and the future.

For more information on the 2009 Atlantic Teachers' Tour, please visit <http://www.teacherstour.com>

### Junior High Math On Olympiad

The second annual Junior High Math On Olympiad Zone Championships were held April 15, 2008. These competitions were held in Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) for teams from twenty-four junior high schools and, for the first time, Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board (CBVRSB) held a competition for six schools. A school team consists of twelve students: four students from each grade level.

The top five schools from HRSB and the top school from CBVRSB advanced to the Regional Championships Saturday, May 3rd at the Sexton Campus Gymnasium at Dalhousie University.

The Junior High Math On Olympiad is a regional math competition (developed by local teachers of mathematics) that gives students an opportunity to use their math skills as a team rather than as individuals.

In 2007-2008, the Junior High Math On Olympiad has engaged more than 1500 students in enriched mathematical challenges.



### Arts Education Update

Advanced Music and Advanced Visual Arts courses are being implemented in several schools across the province. A workshop for teachers of these courses will be held in Halifax on November 6 and 7.

During the 2008-2009 school year, exciting new curriculum is being introduced in arts education: nine sites are piloting Music 7, 10 sites are piloting curriculum which supports band programs at the grade 7 level, and schools are involved in the Visual Arts 7 pilot.

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia exhibited selected works from the deGarthe Scholarship submissions in the Newman Daughters Gallery. This exhibition took place between May 26 and June 6.

A very exciting celebration event for students of Advanced Music 12 and Advanced Visual Arts 12 took place on May 29 and 30 at Liscombe Lodge. Students participated in master classes with university professors and were involved in challenging workshops

### Public Schools Branch consists of the following Divisions:

African Canadian Services	902-424-3151	acsd@ednet.ns.ca	<a href="http://acs.ednet.ns.ca">http://acs.ednet.ns.ca</a>
Diversity, Equity and Special Projects	902-722-1405	smithcla@gov.ns.ca	
Education Quality Services	902-424-0040	crandase@gov.ns.ca	
English Program Services	902-424-8945	eps@ednet.ns.ca	<a href="http://eps.ednet.ns.ca">http://eps.ednet.ns.ca</a>
Evaluation Services	902-424-7746	testeval@ednet.ns.ca	<a href="http://plans.ednet.ns.ca">http://plans.ednet.ns.ca</a>
French Second Language Program Services	902-424-6646	fls@ednet.ns.ca	
Learning Resources and Technology Services	902-424-2462	lrt@ednet.ns.ca	<a href="http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca">http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca</a>
Student Services	902 424-7454	studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca	
Regional Education Services	902-424-5799	(Halifax - SSRSB, HRSB)	902-424-6097 (Halifax - CSAP)
	902-563-2080	(Sydney - CBVRSB)	
	902-893-5890	(Truro - CCRSB, SRSB)	
	902-742-3427	(Yarmouth - TCRSB, AVRSB)	
Senior Executive Director	902-424-5829	lowead@gov.ns.ca	

Nova Scotia Department of Education website: <http://ednet.ns.ca>

Toll Free Access to Department 1-888-825-7770

